

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 207227
ORIGIN IO-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66011

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APPROVED BY:IO:TBROWN

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R 160157Z AUG 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 207227

FOLLOWING REPEAT BELGRADE 5867 ACTION SECSATATE INFO USUN
NEW YORK DATED AUG 11, 1978.

QUOTE: O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5867

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, YO

SUBJ: THE PUERTO RICO ITEM AT THE BELGRADE NON-ALIGNED
CONFERENCE

1. THE PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR IN BELGRADE, BRADFORD HAMMITT, TOLD AMBASSADOR EAGLEBURGER THAT HE WAS PRESENT DURING THE LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL GROUP DISCUSSION OF THE PUERTO RICO ITEM AT THE BELGRADE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT WHILE THE PUERTO RICAN REPRESENTATIVE WHO HAD SPOKEN TO THE CONFERENCE MADE LITTLE IMPACT, THE CUBANS WERE VERY TOUGH IN TRYING TO GET THE MOST EXTREME POSSIBLE ANTI-US LANGUAGE ON THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE, AND LARGELY SUCCEEDED.

2. THE PANAMANIAN SAID THAT HIS OWN DELEGATION WAS ABLE TO EFFECT MINOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE LANGUAGE BUT WAS UNPREPARED
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PAGE 02 STATE 207227

TO FIGHT ALONE. ARGENTINA AND PERU REMAINED COMPLETELY SILENT THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSION; PANAMA, BECAUSE OF ITS GREAT CONCERN THAT IT CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A RELATIONSHIP BOTH WITH RIGHTIST AND WITH LEFTIST GOVERNMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA FELT IT COULD NOT FIGHT HARD AGAINST THE CUBAN PROPOSAL. IF IT HAD DONE SO, IT WOULD HAVE LOST INFLUENCE WITH JAMAICA, GUYANA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, AND BARBADOS, AS WELL AS CUBA, AND THIS IT COULD NOT

AFFORD. IT IS BECAUSE OF PANAMA'S DESIRE TO GET BETTER BALANCE INTO WHAT THE AMBASSADOR DESCRIBED AS THE "WEAK LATIN AMERICAN GROUP" THAT IT IS PUSHING SO HARD TO GET BOLIVIA ADMITTED TO THE NAM.

3. THE PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT PANAMA WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT RESERVE ON THE PUERTO RICAN PARAGRAPHS OF THE NAM FINAL DOCUMENT.
EAGLEBURGER UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE207227
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EESVENDSEN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780335-0024
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780858/aaaabwgz.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1af28662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1720833
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE PUERTO RICO ITEM AT THE BELGRADE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE
TAGS: PORG, YO
To: BUENOS AIRES LIMA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1af28662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014